



County of Fairfax, Virginia

To protect and enrich the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods and diverse communities of Fairfax County

March 28, 2011

Dear Madam Chairman and Members of the Board:

On behalf of the Advisory Citizens Committee on the 2011 Reapportionment of the Board of Supervisors, I am pleased to present for your consideration 22 plans developed by the members of the Committee and three plans developed by members of the public.

The Board established the Committee to develop recommendations on how the Board might reapportion the nine supervisor districts. State law, as well as federal and state constitutional principles, requires the Board to redistrict every ten years using official decennial Census data. To assist the Board in this endeavor, and to ensure broad public participation, the Board appointed as members of the Committee 21 County residents representing each supervisor district, the Democratic and Republican parties, the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce, the Federation of Citizens Associations, the League of Women Voters, the African-American community, the Hispanic community, and the Asian/Pacific Islander community, as well as the County at large. A list of the Committee members is attached.

The Committee held seven meetings and one workshop. The time available to the County for redistricting this year is very limited, and the Committee had to complete its work quickly to leave sufficient time for the Board to consider the Committee's work, adopt a redistricting plan, and complete the legal steps required before state and local primary elections are conducted later this year. Therefore, the Committee began work even before the release of the Census data. The first meeting, held on January 18 in the Alternate Emergency Operations Center, featured: (1) a welcome and information from Supervisor Jeff McKay, the Chairman of the Board's Legislative Committee, (2) a retrospective review of the history of district representation and redistricting in Fairfax County, (3) a briefing by staff on the requirements established by federal and state law and by the Board, and (4) an overview of the demographic data the Committee would use to prepare proposed redistricting plans. At the second meeting, on February 1, Committee members learned to use the mapping and group decision software the County provided for the task. By the third meeting, on February 15, the Committee had received the Census data, had learned that the ideal district size to achieve proportional representation among nine districts was 120,192 persons, and had the statistics showing the distribution of the population, including minority populations, among the districts. Therefore, at the third meeting, the Committee members set about preparing plans. A summary of Fairfax County demographic data is attached.

All meetings except for the first were held in a training room operated by the Department of Information Technology. The room was well-suited to the Committee's purposes, with computer terminals and desk space for each Committee member, two large SmartBoard screens for displaying maps and other documents being discussed, and sufficient room for members of the public to attend and observe. The 2010 census data was used by the Committee's mapping software so that each time a district boundary was altered, the population and demographic impacts were immediately visible. For each proposed district, the software automatically calculated the total population, the deviation from the ideal population, and racial minority populations. All Committee meetings were open and advertised to the public, as required by the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. Several visitors attended and observed each Committee meeting.

Each proposed plan in this Report includes five parts. First, each plan includes a map showing the proposed composition of each district. Second, a summary sheet shows the precincts and population the plan proposes to move, along with basic statistical information. Third, summarized population counts are provided for each district in the proposed plan. Fourth, each plan includes a completed questionnaire that Committee members used to serve as a checklist of the legal requirements and the requirements established by the Board in the Resolution it adopted on November 16, 2010. Finally, each plan is accompanied by a proposed ordinance that would effect the plan. Using the questionnaires, each Committee member/author analyzed whether the districts in his or her proposed plan has a maximum population deviation of less than 10 percent, whether the plan creates a minimum disruption of the existing supervisor district pattern of service, whether the plan utilizes existing precinct boundaries and Census block boundaries, whether the districts proposed are compact and contiguous, and whether the plans protect minority voting interests. Additionally, the questionnaire includes a question on whether each proposed plan will increase or decrease the County's annual operating costs, a factor that the Committee agreed should be considered as well.

During the process, the Committee members further refined certain guiding principles. The Committee agreed that its primary concern was to cause minimum disruption to the existing district patterns of service. Many neighborhoods and communities have built relationships with their district Supervisors and those who represent their districts on County Boards and Commissions. Those interactions are important for civic involvement and participation. The Committee recognized that because Congressional, State Senate, and House of Delegate districts all will be changing, it is important to minimize further confusion for residents. Additionally, the Committee agreed that none of the plans forwarded to the Board of Supervisors would move a Supervisor or School Board district member out of his or her district, nor would any of the plans put two Supervisors in the same district. The Committee considered the disruption and cost if district government centers were moved into another district and agreed that none of the plans would include moving district offices out of the district.

Whenever possible, the Committee focused carefully on not unnecessarily breaking up communities of interest, including dividing neighborhoods and civic/homeowners' associations. Not all of the plans are completely successful in meeting this goal. The Committee agreed that the Towns of Herndon, Vienna, and Clifton, and the boundaries of Reston would not be divided. All the forwarded plans meet that goal, although the Committee noted that the boundary between Nottoway and Vienna #6 precincts should be redrawn so that the small portion of the Town of Vienna now in Nottoway precinct is in Vienna #6 precinct instead. The Committee also considered reuniting communities of interest that were divided in previous redistrictings, particularly if the earlier division had created very small precincts that are costly to operate. Other concerns discussed by the Committee included continuity of the Occoquan watershed, high school pyramids, the "Mixing Bowl," and Tysons Corner. We also heard about the need to consolidate small precincts, such as Graham and Greenway, to maximize resources, precluding dividing them into separate districts.

The plans developed by the Committee and presented in this Report include 19 nine-district plans, two ten-district plans, and one eleven-district plan. The Committee agreed that keeping nine districts is preferable because it is far less disruptive and it is more economical. In fact, the majority of the plans in group 9A below make no changes to Sully District or Lee District. Nevertheless, the Committee agreed to send forward the ten- and eleven-district plans to prompt thought and discussion about the possible need to consider increasing the size of the Board in the future, depending on the County's growth.

The Board of Supervisors solicited plans from the general public as well as from the Committee. In order to facilitate the preparation of such plans, the County's website included a redistricting page with mapping files, Census data by precinct and district, and a questionnaire similar to that used by the Committee members. Therefore, this Report includes three plans submitted by members of the public in addition to the 22 plans developed by the members of the Committee. We have included the publicly submitted maps and questionnaires in this Report, but note that none of these plans adhere to the Committee's guiding principles.

The plans are presented as follows:

Group I: Plans in this group, designated 9A_, move 9 or fewer precincts. They are presented in an order that starts with the plan that moves the fewest precincts. Plan Nos. 3 and 4 were each separately submitted by two Committee members, so only one map is included for each. Group I includes 12 plans designated 9A1 through 9A12.

Group II: Plans in this group, designated 9B_, move 10 or more precincts. Group II includes 7 plans designated 9B1 through 9B7.

Group III: Plans in this group, designated 10A_ or 11A_, create additional districts. Group III includes plans 10A1, 10A2, and 11A1.

Members, Board of Supervisors

March 28, 2011

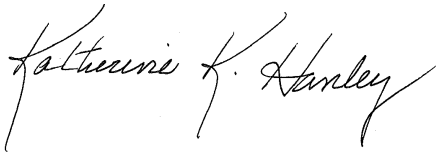
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Public plans: Plans submitted by members of the public.

Finally, the Committee wishes to thank all of the County staff that made this process work so efficiently. Under redistricting veteran Michael Long's leadership, joined by Erin Ward, various agencies had been preparing long before the Committee meetings started and the census data arrived. Special thanks to Mike Liddle, Matthew Miller, Anne Pollack, and Sandy Woiak of the Department of Information Technology, who willingly explained several times how to make the redistricting software work, and to Tom Conry for supporting their efforts. Anne Cahill, another redistricting veteran, provided crucial demographic information and insight. Judy Flaig, from the Office of Elections, pitched in to put up signs and move chairs, along with providing her precinct expertise. Of course the Office of Public Affairs helped to involve and inform the public. Please note the attached list of those who supported this effort. All of them deserve our thanks and appreciation.

Although the Census numbers revealed that Fairfax County has not had as large or as uneven growth as in previous decades and technology has greatly improved, redistricting is still a challenge. The required timelines this year make it even more so. On behalf of the Committee, thank you for giving us this important and interesting opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Katherine K. Hanley". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name of the signatory.

Katherine K. Hanley, Chairman

Attachments: List of Committee members
Summary of Fairfax County demographic data